

Drug Abuse and Social Work

Chapter 16

Introduction

- In the 1960's, a leader for the drug culture that preached the gospel of drugs and advocated the unrestricted use of drugs was Timothy Leary.
- The increasing use of drugs is a direct result of peer pressure, advertisement and commercial marketing techniques, and stress in today's society.

Introduction

- President Clinton tried to prevent drug abuse by funding programs for children and youth. (Headstart and employment opportunities for teenagers).
- By 1995, the National Survey Results found evidence of an increase in the use of a number of illicit drugs among secondary students and some reversals with regard to key attitudes and beliefs.
- Illicit drug use rose sharply again in 1995 in all three grade levels (8th, 10th, and 12th).

Misused Drugs and What They Do

- The major classes of drugs that have potential for abuse are narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, marijuana, inhalants, and steroids.
- By affecting the central nervous system, drugs produce a change in the behavior, emotional responses, and thought processes of the abuser.
- All psychoactive drugs have an element of psychological dependence, but not all have the capacity to develop physical dependence.

Misused Drugs

- Drugs used to allay fear and anxiety, induce sleep, kill pain, and offer an escape from boredom, loneliness and reality are called depressants.
- The most controversial of all natural drugs in use today is marijuana.
- Alcohol is a depressant.
- The most abused of all drugs is tobacco.

Extent and Cost of Drug Abuse

- It is estimated that, of the total number of child abuse and neglect deaths, two-thirds are related to substance abuse.
- 10 percent of the 66 million children under 18 live in homes that abuse drugs.
- Many people involved in drug abuse are lost as productive members of society.
- The impact on the nation's economy will be over \$200 billion because of crime, health-care costs, fires, and lost productivity due to alcoholism and drug abuse.

Extent and Cost of Drug Abuse

- The 2000 National Survey Results on Drug Use found evidence that the use of MDMA (Ecstacy) had risen sharply from 1998 to 2000.
- According to Rosalie Kane, problem drinking often contributes to wife and child abuse, delinquent behavior, and economic dependence.
- Drugs have spread to suburbs, high schools, and affect all ethnic groups and classes of society.

Programs For Control, Prevention, Treatment

- Blum's study on young people and substance abuse found that those who were less likely to become drug abusers:
 - came from homes where parental love and concern were evident,
 - had parents who taught against the use of mood-altering substances,
 - had families that helped to meet the emotional needs of the children.

Control, Prevention, Treatment

- The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was established to control the illicit use of narcotics and dangerous drugs through law enforcement, education, training, and research.
- Social workers help in prevention and education programs that:
 - Train professionals and paraprofessionals who work with drug abusers
 - Teach drug abuse in the classroom, beginning in elementary grades
 - Help business and industry take advantage of educational opportunities.

Control, Prevention, Treatment

- Treatment centers for drug abusers include inpatient and outpatient clinics, emergency care and referral services.
- A controversial solution or “cure” to the problem of heroin addiction is the use of methadone.
- Most young people learn about illicit drug use from their peers.

Control, Prevention, Treatment

- While prevention of drug abuse has focused on peer resistance and education, Kumpfer recommends that we take a totally new direction:
 - A family-center approach to prevention that includes:
 - Parent and family skills training
 - In-home support services
 - Family therapy

Research

- Drug abuse programs involving social work are mainly treatment programs for victims and their families.
- Drugs addicts seek help if they are financially unable to support their habit; they are worn out from evading the police; and they must choose between going to jail or seeking help.

Research

- The 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain had less drug abuse reported because of more sophisticated methods of using drugs.
- According to C. Everett Koop, former U.S. Surgeon General, the chronic effects of marijuana consist of:
 - Impaired short-term memory
 - The by-products of marijuana remain in the body fat for several weeks
 - Possible adverse effects on heart function